

## GENERAL NOTES

Conducted by M. H. Swenk

**Starlings Bathing in Ice Water.**—At Sandusky, Ohio, Dr. Henry Graefe has a bird bath from which the water overflows into a pool for goldfish. Last winter, when the temperature was below zero, he observed Starlings bathing. The water froze on their wings, making flight so difficult that several of the Starlings were easily caught.—E. L. MOSELEY, *Bowling Green, Ohio*.

**The Pine Siskin Nesting in Southeastern South Dakota.**—The writer found a pair of Pine Siskins (*Spinus pinus*) nesting at Yankton, South Dakota, on April 12, 1936. This record seems worthy of publication both because of the rather early nesting date and the fact that the siskin is an uncommon nesting bird in this region. The last nest found by the writer was on May 8, 1930, at Sioux City, Iowa.—WM. YOUNGWORTH, *Sioux City, Iowa*.

**Herring Gulls on the Monongahela River During Flood.**—On March 18, 1936, at Dravosburg, Pennsylvania, on the Monongahela River, I saw five Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*) flying overhead. On the afternoon of the same day at Braddock, Pennsylvania, I noticed four gulls that probably were this species. Gulls rarely occur on this section of the river because of its polluted condition in this vicinity. In my opinion the arrival of the gulls during the flood should be recorded.—P. P. MALLEY, *New York, N. Y.*

**An Early Ohio Record of the Bachman's Sparrow.**—In the spring of 1898, in our daily trips to my father's farm in Marshal Township, my brother called my attention to a dark-streaked sparrow's concealed nest with four white eggs. There, not two feet from a much-travelled foot path was my first nest of the Bachman's Sparrow (*Aimophila aestivalis bachmani*). The nest had been hollowed out and shaped in a mat of thick dead grass and was completely concealed by a dense growth of new grass. No opening was visible, the bird slipping in through the loose, dead grass.—KATIE M. ROADS, *Hillsboro, Ohio*.

**An Unusual Nest of the Vesper Sparrow.**—On July 2, 1936, my attention was called to a nest on the ground under a raspberry bush in a cleanly cultivated garden. It would have been in plain sight except for one leaf which drooped neatly over. It contained one egg measuring 22x16 mm., nearly white with very indistinct pinkish spots or splotches, and two smaller, gray eggs, 16x11 mm. and 15x12 mm., respectively. The bird was not seen at the time and the identity of such small eggs was a mystery. When I returned on July 4, a Vesper Sparrow was flushed from the nest. I removed one egg and measured the other two, hoping to try trapping the parent after incubation. By this time I had realized that the small eggs must be runt eggs and they proved to be without yolk, as expected. The nest was not visited again for two or three days, when it appeared deserted. After another two days without any evidence of brooding, the entire nest was placed in a covered eardboard box and taken to the office on July 11. Here it was again set aside until July 14, when on opening the box, the large egg had hatched, not earlier than the day before. The nestling was dead. The maximum daily temperatures had been above 100° F., and the building of course quite constantly around 90°. Incidentally, Chapman's Handbook (all editions) gives the length as 1.82 (inches), an evident misprint for .82.—O. A. STEVENS, *Fargo, N. Dak.*